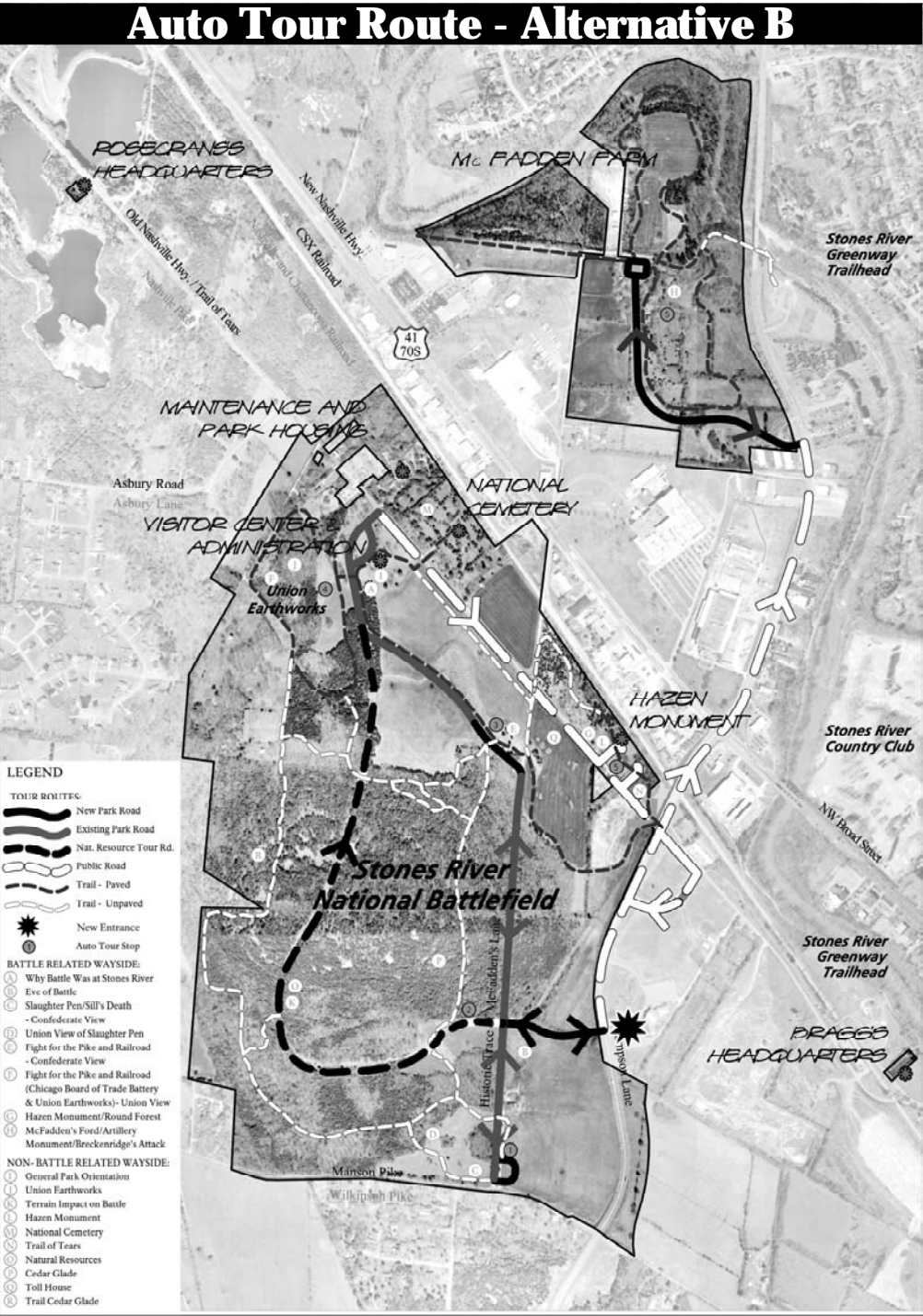


**Introduction** – The Concept Plans illustrate alternative improvements to visitor experience while protecting the historic and natural resources. Improvements found on all alternatives include:

- Drop off and parking at the visitor center (VC) – the initial orientation stop
- Eight interpretive tour stops (as shown on the legend)
- McFadden Trace access to Slaughter Pen area
- Hazen Monument off-street parking

- New parking at the Artillery Monument
- Trails improve interpretive experience
- New park identification and direction signing

**Alternative A** maintains the current park entry and creates a tour route running clockwise from the VC east on Old Nashville Hwy, to McFadden Trace (entry only), south to the Slaughter Pen and then returning to the VC via the east leg of the current loop rd. The west leg of existing route is narrowed to a trail. The tour follows the current route to McFadden Farm.



**Advantages**

- Improved natural resource conditions
- Minimal impact on cultural landscapes
- Traditional entry along Old Nashville Hwy.
- Limited expansion of park operations & maint.

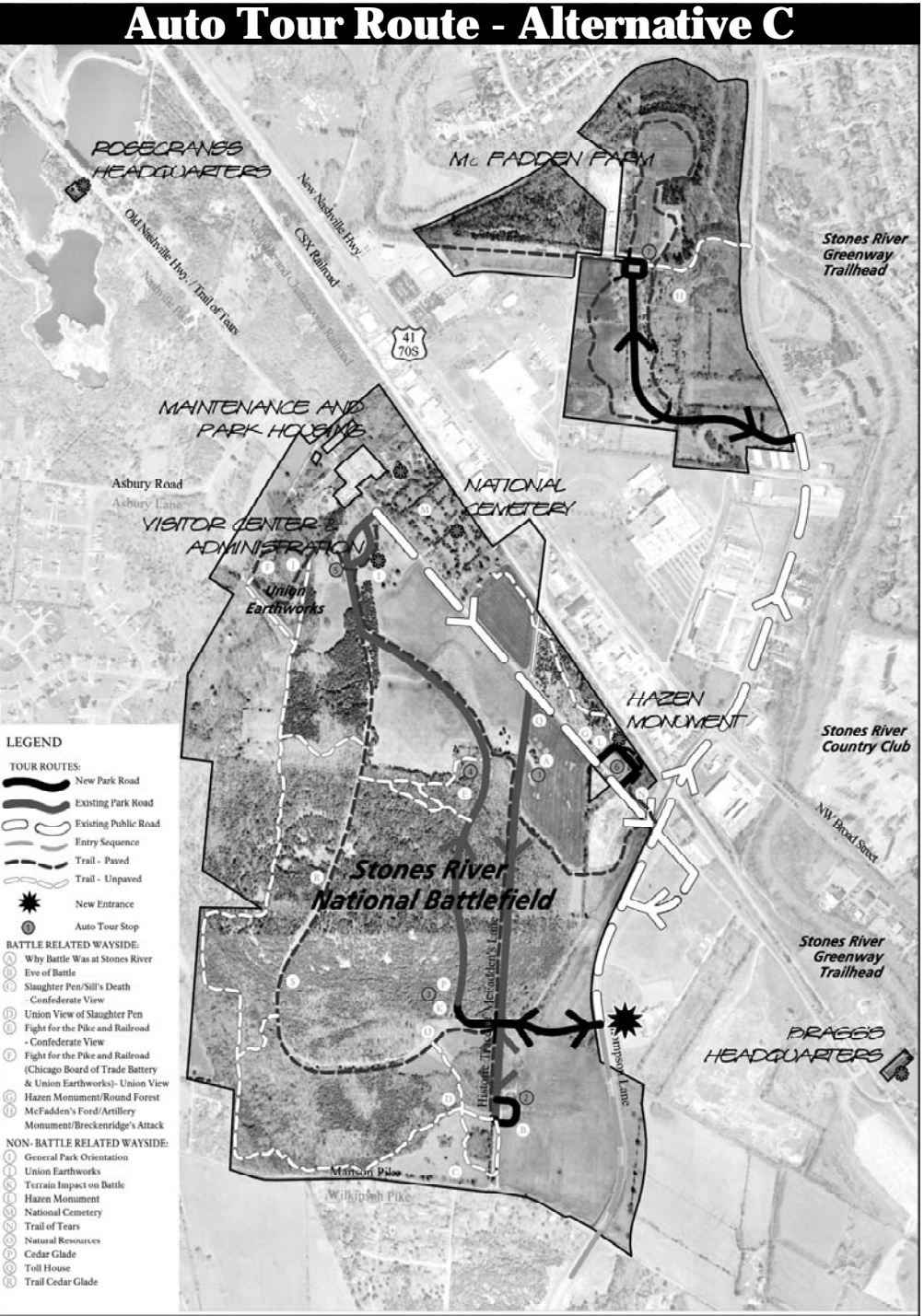
**Disadvantages**

- Difficult/unattractive turns off Thompson Ln.
- Park lacks control of entry experience

**Alternative B** develops two signalized entry drives from Thompson Lane into the main park and McFadden Farm unit. Circulation in the main park runs in two directions along McFadden Trace and part of the existing tour route. In the main park, the west leg of existing tour route is converted to a natural resource tour road.

**Advantages**

- Improved visitor access - safer signalized and aesthetically pleasing, traditional NPS entry
- North end of McFadden Lane restored



**Disadvantages**

- Tour retraces large portions of route to reach all battle-related waysides
- Glade story not present along tour route
- Two-way traffic from VC to Slaughter Pen
- Potential for cut-through traffic

**Alternative C** also develops two signalized entry drives from Thompson Lane into the main park and McFadden Farm unit. Circulation in the main park runs in a clockwise loop along

Old Nashville Hwy., McFadden Trace and part of the existing tour route. In the main park, the west leg of the existing tour route is narrowed and becomes a paved pedestrian trail.

**Advantages**

- Improved visitor access - safer signalized and aesthetically pleasing, traditional NPS entry
- Improved cedar glades/natural resources

**Disadvantages**

- Tour route retraces entry drive
- Potential for cut-through traffic



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
  
Stones River National Battlefield  
3501 Old Nashville Hwy.  
Murfreesboro, TN 37129

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The Planning Team

The DCP Planning Team consists of the Park Superintendent, park staff and technical specialists from the National Park Service's Southeast Regional Office; Parsons Corporation is a private contractor that is assisting the National Park Service with the planning process. The Park Superintendent and the Director of the Southeast Regional Office of the National Park Service will be the decision makers in the planning effort. The DCP planning team will coordinate with appropriate State of Tennessee federal and local agencies.

Comments? Contact:

Stuart Johnson, Superintendent  
Gib Backlund, Chief of Operations  
Stones River National Battlefield  
3501 Old Nashville Hwy.  
Murfreesboro, TN 37129  
615-893-9501  
stri\_information@nps.gov

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Public Open House on October 14th!

(continued from page 1)  
National Historic Preservation Act. Following a public comment period, a final plan will be issued. We hope to finish the plan in early 2005.

The National Park Service is committed to providing the best possible experience for visitors. By expanding and improving the tour route and trail system, visitors will gain a far better understanding of the battle at the locations where critical events actually occurred. We hope you will take this opportunity to become involved in the planning process and help shape the future of Stones River National Battlefield.

Sincerely,

Stuart K. Johnson, Superintendent  
Stones River National Battlefield

Public Open House Time and Place

The National Park Service (NPS) has scheduled a public open house for input on the Auto Tour Route alternatives:

October 14th, 2004, 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Stones River National Battlefield Visitor's Center

Special Needs

If you have special needs addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), please notify The Stones River National Battlefield at 615-893-9501 prior to October 7th.

Park News

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Stones River National Battlefield News

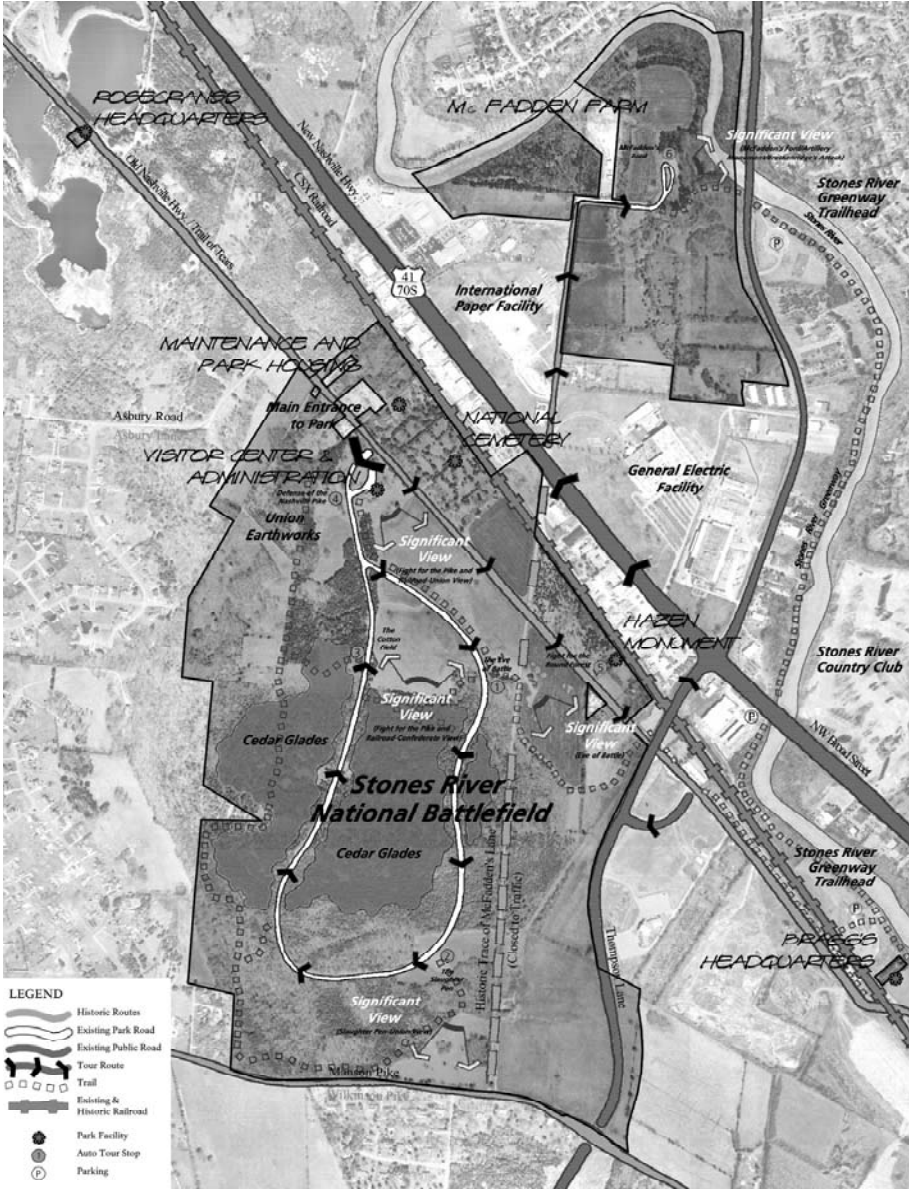
Dear Park Neighbors, Visitors, and Other Interested Parties:

Public Open House for Auto Tour Route on October 14th, 2004! .....Page 4

Since our last newsletter in March of this year, we've been very busy at Stones River National Battlefield. Of course the big news is that we completed the visitor center renovation and expansion project in August and had a grand opening celebration and dedication on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Despite concerns about the possible impact of Hurricane Ivan, we had gorgeous weather, an excellent turnout, and a full day of special programs and events. Reaction to the new facility, exhibit and media has been overwhelmingly positive.

The purpose of this newsletter is to again request your involvement in the next phase of planning for the expansion and improvement of the park's interpretive tour route and trail system. Based on public comments provided in March, we worked with our planning consultant, Parsons, to develop several alternatives for the tour road and trail system. We would like your reactions to these alternatives before we proceed any further. There are several ways for you to do this. You can attend the open house at Stones River National Battlefield on Thursday, October 14 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.; you can review the maps in this newsletter and send us your comments on the enclosed comment sheet; or you can send us an e-mail at [stri\\_information@nps.gov](mailto:stri_information@nps.gov). The comment period ends on Friday, October 22.

After we review and analyze your input, we will prepare a draft plan containing a preferred alternative, appropriate documentation and environmental analysis to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act & Section 106 of the (continued on page 4)



Analysis of Existing Conditions